

SEDIMENTOLOGY OF THE ARTHUR RIVER AREA, NORTHWEST TASMANIA.

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*A research thesis submitted
in partial fulfilment of the degree
of Bachelor of Science with Honours*

Department of Geology,
University of Tasmania,
November, 1997.

*I would like to dedicate this thesis to my mother, Kathy Scott.
She has been such a wonderful source of love, encouragement,
inspiration and support through every moment of my life.*

*I know how hard she has worked, and how much she has sacrificed to
get me through this growing process.*

*I hope you can rest now mum,
Love Carol.*

Abstract

The Arthur River area is situated on the north-west coast of Tasmania. The rocks outcropping in the area are correlates to the Proterozoic metasedimentary sequences of the Rocky Cape Group. The Rocky Cape group and its correlates dominate the geology of the north western region of Tasmania, but are however, relatively under studied.

The major part of this study involved a detailed analysis of the sedimentology in the Arthur River area, and from this a depositional model was constructed. A comparison of these results with the Rocky Cape Group 'type-section' is also presented. A minor part of this research was structural mapping, which outlines the structural history of the area.

Sedimentological studies showed that the Arthur River area contained three separate facies: a laminated carbonaceous mudstone; quartzarenite; and interbedded siltstone facies. These are interpreted to have been deposited in: a deep, low energy, reducing slope environment; a high energy, shallow marine tidal dominated shelf environment and; a moderate to low energy, outer shelf environment situated above storm wave base, respectively. Interesting sedimentary structures found within these rocks included: guttercasts in facies 1 and 3 and mudcracks in facies 3. The formation of the mudcracks was most probably due to the processes of diastasis.

When the facies were combined into one depositional basin model, it was shown that the palaeo-shoreline of this basin section was striking in a NW-SE direction. The tidal palaeocurrent signature was parallel to this, forming a longshore tidal current system.

The main structure of the area fits with the regional trends outlined for the western correlates of the Rocky Cape Group. Dominant folding is in the NW-SE direction (F1), with minor folding in the NE-SW direction (F2). Faulting in the area may also be related to these stress fields.

Acknowledgments

My sincere thanks go to both Dr Ron Berry and Dr Stuart Bull. Not only did they provide answers to my questions and proof reading of my chapters; but also showed faith in my ability when the end just looked too far away. Thankyou also to Dr David Cooke who tried hard to keep us all motivated.

I must thank ESSO Australia for the logistical support scholarship, and the opportunity to improve my public speaking skills.

I would also like to thank the local people of the Arthur River area, who provided logistical support while in the field. Thankyou to Rob and Kay at Arthur River Cruises for their front lawn and hot shower. Thanks also to Jo King, for allowing me to map his farming land, and stay in his small hut by the coast, what an experience!

Most importantly, my thanks go to the family and friends who have supported me throughout this challenging year.

Those long distance phone calls from all of you on the mainland expressing you care and undying faith, have kept me going. Especially from Mum, Ness, Dad, Penny and Ty, I know you will always be there for me.

For those of you that have been in Tassie with me, thankyou so much. The honours class, especially Pete and Ruth, have been a very wonderful substitute family, I wish all of you the best for the future. There are numerous times you have listened, provided advice or just let me cry on your shoulder. John, your enthusiasm and genuine interest in tackling the Rocky Cape Group geology couldn't help but rub off on me. And Sean, you don't say much, but maybe its better that way. The companionship and love you gave me, especially when I was a mess, kept me going through it all.

Lastly, I would also like to thank the rugged, untouched north-west coast of Tasmania for providing me with inspiration, plenty of data, and a beautiful place to conduct field work. I hope that this data will one day be called upon to help piece together the history of the Rocky Cape Group and its correlates.

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